



IKE Tiger Cruise 2009 – Frequently Asked Questions

Q: Who is eligible to participate?

A: All ship, embarked staff, and air wing crewmembers may sponsor Tigers. Immediate family members will be given priority should Tiger interest exceed our carrying capacity. Tigers must be at least eight years old and in good health. All opposite sex Tigers require a co-sponsor, who will assist with berthing gender-specific berthing arrangements. Lastly, as per applicable governing instructions, all spouses, fiancés, and significant others are STRICTLY PROHIBITED from embarking for the Tiger Cruise.

Q: How do I register and prepare for the Tiger Cruise?

A: Your Navy sponsor will be your primary point of contact for IKE Tiger Cruise 2009. If you're planning to attend, your active duty sponsor onboard IKE must first pre-register you through his departmental or squadron Tiger representative. Your registration will be confirmed once all required forms are signed and returned in a timely manner. Additionally, your sponsor must pay your Tiger registration fee onboard prior to your embarkation.

Upon arrival pierside at Naval Station Mayport, you will check-in at the Tiger Cruise Registration Center to obtain your Tiger ID and final embarkation authorization. After a quick baggage check and security screening, you'll be ready to come aboard "Mighty IKE."

Q: How much will the Tiger Cruise cost?

A: There is a \$50 Tiger registration fee. This fee covers meals and incidentals (i.e. contents of the Tiger “cruise” bag to include a t-shirt, water bottle, etc.). The Tiger registration fee will be paid by your sponsor using their Navy Cash card and must be paid in full NLT 25 June 2009 to guarantee your reservation. This fee is non-refundable in the event of cancellation.

Q: When should I plan to arrive in Mayport?

A: If arriving by air, all Tigers are highly encouraged to arrive on the 27th and stay in an airport area hotel. The Jacksonville USO is offering special hotel packages for arriving Tigers (usoairport@usojax.com). All airport area hotels offer free shuttle service to and from the airport, allowing for quick and inexpensive access to the IKE Tiger shuttle on the morning of the 28th.

Shuttle buses will run regularly from the lower level of Jacksonville International Airport directly to the pier at Naval Station Mayport beginning at 0700 on Tuesday, 28 July. The last shuttle will depart the airport at 1300. Please plan accordingly.

There will be an IKE Tiger Welcome Desk set up at the Jacksonville International Airport USO location on the lower level of the airport (see “Arrival” link for a map). IKE sailors will be standing by to assist you and direct you to the appropriate shuttle buses.

If arriving directly at NS Mayport by POV (Personally Owned Vehicle) or taxi, please use the main gate of the base. A special base access list will be kept at the gate. You will not gain entry to the base without first notifying your sponsor of your intention to drive aboard, so please ensure they are aware of your plans.

All Tigers must be checked-in at pier C-2 no later than 1330. The ship will get underway to begin our transit home soon thereafter. So again, please plan accordingly, and leave yourself plenty of time to either catch the airport shuttle to the pier or drive aboard and park.

Q: If I drive aboard, where can I leave my car?

A: Parking passes will be provided to those who arrive at NS Mayport by POV. The pass will likely expire on 31 July, so please plan your return to Mayport to pick up your vehicle by the last day of the month.

Q: Where will I sleep on the ship?

A: Tigers will sleep as close as possible to their sponsors in either enlisted berthing compartments or officer staterooms. Some Tigers may also opt to sleep on a cot. The “coffin” rack of a Navy ship is always a crowd favorite!

Q: Where will I eat?

A: Tigers will eat all of their meals with their sponsor on the enlisted mess decks, in the Chief Petty Officers’ mess, or in one of the three officer wardrooms.

Q: Where will the ship sail during the cruise?

A: The ship will sail directly from Mayport to Norfolk. We will arrive in Norfolk midday on Thursday, 30 July. Please be aware that the weather and sea state are, as always, highly unpredictable. While we anticipate and hope for calm seas, problems may arise during the transit for those particularly susceptible to motion sickness, so plan accordingly and bring appropriate motion sickness medications, if necessary. Except in extreme circumstances, the ship will not provide any medications to embarked Tigers.

Q: What will I be doing during the cruise?

A: The better question is, what won’t you be doing?! During our transit, various activities, tours, and demonstrations will allow you to experience first-hand life at-sea aboard “Mighty IKE.” This includes observing flight operations from the flight deck, guided tours of various ship spaces, damage control training, live scenario-based drills, static displays of embarked aircraft and weapons displays, and various other enjoyable hands-on activities. Keep in mind that your sponsor will still be required to perform her/his normal duties, if required, so be prepared to be flexible.

Q: What should I bring?

A: Please reference our Tiger Packing Checklist. Also, be sure to note the items that you should not bring aboard IKE.

Q: What will I do if I need to see a doctor during the cruise?

A: Please read the letter from our Senior Medical Officer. Very limited health services are available in an emergency. However, as a general rule, no routine medical care will be provided for embarked Tigers.

Q: What happens if the Tiger Cruise is cancelled?

A: Unfortunately, the possibility always exists that IKE could be tasked to support an emergent crisis or contingency operation. In the unlikely event that the Tiger Cruise is cancelled after you've arrived in Mayport, you will be responsible for costs associated with your return home. However, the Tiger registration fee will likely be reimbursed through to your sponsor.

Q: What should I do if I can't make the trip after registering?

A: If, after your registration has been confirmed, circumstances arise which prevent you from joining us for Tiger Cruise 2009, please notify your sponsor immediately.

Q: I still have questions, and my sponsor is unable to assist me. How can I get additional help?

A: If your sponsor is unable to answer your questions, please feel free to send your questions directly to TigerCruise09@cvn69.navy.mil. Someone from the ship will respond in a timely manner – please understand that connectivity while forward deployed is questionable at times. Please be patient and we'll answer all of your questions to the best of our ability.

Q: How do I get to Mayport?

A: Tigers are responsible for their travel, and all associated costs, prior to embarkation in Mayport and after debarkation in Norfolk. If traveling by air, please consider purchasing refundable tickets. All Tigers who are arriving by air should plan their travel into Jacksonville International Airport – approximately 35 minutes from Naval Station Mayport. Upon your arrival at JAX Int'l, look for the USS DWIGHT D. EISENHOWER Tiger Cruise 2009 signs. They will be prominently displayed throughout the airport and will direct you to the USO IKE Tiger Welcome Desk. IKE sailors will be waiting to assist you.

From Norfolk, VA – For those traveling from the greater Tidewater region, many airlines offer daily flights from Norfolk International and Newport News Regional Airports. We recommend booking flights as early as possible, since the number of daily flights is limited and seats will go quickly.

From Jacksonville, FL – The drive from Jacksonville International Airport to Naval Station Mayport takes roughly 30-40 minutes. On Tuesday, 28 July, shuttles will run regularly from the airport to the ship. IKE sailors will be stationed throughout the airport and at the USO Tiger Welcome Desk to direct you to the shuttle loading area.

Arriving by Car: The naval station is located at the north end of Mayport Road. From the north, take I-95 South to exit 362A (FL 9A). Exit 9A at Atlantic Boulevard (FL 10) and drive east until you cross the Intracoastal Waterway. After crossing the waterway, stay in the right lane, which is an exit only onto the Mayport Road flyover. Continue for approximately five miles, and the road ends at the base's main gate. Please ensure your shipboard sponsor is aware of your intention to arrive at the base by POV. A base security access list will be posted at each gate to ensure seamless access.

From the south, take I-95 North Exit 344 / J. Turner Butler Boulevard. Go east to the San Pablo exit and turn left. Drive across Beach Boulevard, continue to Atlantic Boulevard and turn right onto Atlantic. After crossing the Intracoastal Waterway, follow the above directions.

From Interstate I-10 East, continue to I-95 South, exit at US Highway 90 (Beaches) until it splits into Atlantic Boulevard and Beach Boulevard. Take Atlantic Boulevard and follow the above directions.